

# **Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club**



**February 2022 Newsletter**

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## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Well 2021 was another Covid affected year which saw many events cancelled, thankfully some events were held successfully during periods when restrictions were eased and this allowed us to get together.

You may have noticed a change to the Newsletter publishing dates, moving from December to February and June to July to allow us to include the Board's reports in future publications.

As happens from time to time we have had a few changes at the top of the organisation and Congratulations go to Eric Jock and Tom van der Kley on their elections as the new Region 1 and Region 7 Directors.

Our Regional Reporters have done a great job this time around despite the reduced activity but unfortunately our Region 6 reporter Chuck Matthews resigned his position in late December so I am looking for a new reporter for that region and I would like to thank Chuck for his work on past Newsletters.

Finally I wish everybody a Happy New Year and hope that you all remain in good health during these trying times and that you are able to get some miles on your clocks.

[editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)



**The next Newsletter will be published in July 2022...**

**Send your articles to me or your Regional Reporter by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

### COVER PHOTO

Red Knights out for a ride at the UK/Ireland meeting..

### REGION 6 REPORTER VACANCY

Due to the resignation of the region 6 reporter in December we have a reporter vacancy.

Contact the Editor if you would like more information.

Communications Chairman – George Colby [communications@redknightsmc.com](mailto:communications@redknightsmc.com)

Newsletter Editor - Steve Williamson [editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)

#### Regional Reporters' contact emails

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Region 8 NZ	Shaun Crowley -	<a href="mailto:region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com">region8nzreporter@redknightsmc.com</a>
Region 8 Aus	Judy Teuma -	<a href="mailto:region8ausreporter@redknightsmc.com">region8ausreporter@redknightsmc.com</a>



# REPORTS FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT - Joey Powell

As I look back at 2021 there were many of what ifs. What if we would have done this or what if my chapter or I had done that. These what ifs do not matter now, the new year is here, and we need to look forward. I would like to thank the Board, Committees, and the Chapter Members for a job well done in 2021. All together we have reached our goal with 10,000 members.

2021 was another challenging year with COVID and other illnesses within the club. I hope that we as a family reached out to those in need and extended a helping hand. Again, we were not able to have our convention this year, but we were able to hold a few of our Rallies. Thanks to those that were able to attend and support the events, it was nice getting out to see everyone.

I encourage each member to be engaged with their chapter in 2022. Stay focused to help the chapter and the club to grow, while supporting your local communities. Contact your Regional Director with concerns and ideas to help the Red Knights not only grow but support for each other. We need to remember that this is our club, not just one person's. I have learned being on the board that a lot of times if we put ideas together it works best for the organization. We all need to think what is best for the Red Knights as a whole, not just ourselves or one chapter or region. In attending three 9/11 rides with local chapters this past year, I saw old friendships rekindled and new friendships being made. The communities welcomed us with open arms and enthused to see the Red Knights and the support for their hometowns.

The board has planned our spring meeting to be face to face for the ones that can be there and the others will join by zoom. Currently, the 2022 Convention and the Rallies are a go! We hope that you are able to attend at least one of the events. This is also a great opportunity to talk about new ideas for the Red Knights that you are entertaining.

In 2022, I challenge the members to focus on what we, everyone, can get out of the club but what we can give to our organization. If you give of yourself and your time, in return you get a feeling of satisfaction knowing you not only help your chapter, community but you may have been that encouragement for another member because of your willingness and positive attitude. You will certainly make more friendships than you can imagine not just in the chapter but around the world. How many people do you know that can say they have friends in other countries? As a friend of mine always tells me when I call him, "just get on your bike and ride, enjoying the adventure of where it takes you and the people you meet".

In closing remember your family and tell them you love them at the beginning and at the end of each day. You never know when it might be the last time, they may see you.

"My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service that I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, "Who am I?" At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, "Who am I" to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? "Who am I" to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? "Who am I", so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding "Who I am" may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. "Who am I?" I am a Firefighter!"

**WE ARE A FAMILY OF ONE - THE RED KNIGHTS.....**



**VICE PRESIDENT - Spike Ostiguy**

Fraternal greetings everyone,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well.

As the pandemic evolves into an endemic, I know we all are looking forward to a more positive 2022. I think you'll all agree; We are certainly well overdue with respects to ramping up with some good old fashion Regional Rallies and International Conventions.

As Covid and travel restrictions continued to hinder our in-person board meetings...

I was still able to participate in all but one of our conference calls / Zoom meetings of the R.K.I., R.K.R. and R.K.M.F. Including the International Conference in August that was aired worldwide via Zoom.

August 14-16, I was able to attend the Dixie Rally in Culpeper, VA

**2021 R.K.M.C. Heaven One Honors: Attending two (2) Red Knights Members Visitation / Funeral Services.**

1.) Ann Salisbury, R.K.M.C. Active Member Massachusetts Chapter 3 January 22<sup>nd</sup>

2.) Peter McGonnell, Active Member R.K.M.C. Massachusetts Chapter 9 July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Godspeed**

**May you rest in peace**

**RKF**

*Please take a moment and reflect. If you pray, please pray for the families and friends of all those who have been touched.*

As a Massachusetts Chapter IV member, I also currently sit on the R.K. Memorial Hall / Park Committee.

Continual communications are always fluid between Mass 1 President Peter Stone, Founding Fathers and other Committee Members.

June of 2021 saw a new (9' dia.) R.K.M.C. seal installed/applied at Memorial Park.

This new seal replaces the original, circa 2007.



**State of the Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) Program**

12-31-21... we have **356** R.K.M.C., Member-At-Large Members: 294-Active / 54-Social / 8- Junior  
In 2021 we received 154 R.K.M.C., Member-At-Large applications.

2021 was a banner year, with **47** - M.A.L.'s (16) / M.A.L. applicants (31) transferring to... or being placed in chapter membership.

Five (5) chapters were spawned from or chartered with Member-At-Large Members.  
Georgia 7, Georgia 8, Germany 31, Texas 6 and New York 6  
Thank you and best wishes with your new chapter endeavors.

In accordance with the By-Laws Article 2, Section 2:10 3. International Dues;  
It is unfortunate I must report that there are 46 Member-At-Large Members on restricted service.  
All have been advised that you are now two (2) years (2020) in arrears.  
With all due respect, dues not paid by March 31, 2022 you will be removed from the roster/membership.  
We do hope that you take this opportunity to update back in good standing.  
Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Please remain vigilant and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

*Spike Ostiguy*  
*R.K.I.F.M.C.*  
*International Vice President*  
Life Member  
Massachusetts Chapter IV



**SECRETARY - Jack Jarvis**

Hello to all my brother and sister Red Knights!

Well, it looks like 2021 was a better year for our organization but we still did not get to celebrate together with our annual convention. Sounds like they had a doozy set up for us all to enjoy too! All I can say is that PA better be ready for everyone to show up in 2022 as

I see this convention breaking ALL the attendance records!

Your International Secretary has been very busy since the last time we were all together. I attended the monthly Zoom meetings your board has been having to remain up with current events and spoke with quite a few Chapters and Members during the past year. Zoom has become the tool that has kept us all together again this year! I have spent an average of 25+ hours a week on my secretary duties. These include email, reports, conference calls, meetings, TMLA's, insurance, new Chapter, and all the smaller behind the scenes work that is always done just to keep things organized. I can tell you that not getting together as much has led to some very creative items for sale from our Chapters.

Since the inception of the digital signature TMLA process, we have successfully approved almost 1000 new TMLA's with an average turnaround time of just over two hours! Thanks to the COVID restrictions, I have received a record number of applications for TMLA's. I am happy to say that improving the TMLA program is working wonderfully. Please remember that the application and the artwork must be submitted together, electronically. All applications and artwork are now saved electronically and if you mail me bad artwork, I cannot accept it as it will not scan properly. Please also remember that ANY design that you create with our name or logo **MUST** have the required ®. If the registered trademark is not plainly visible when I receive the application, it will be returned with a quick reminder! Please do not make items that have not been approved or does not contain the ®.

We have added another twenty (20) new Chapters this year. If the current Chapters need Membership Cards, please contact your Regional Director and they will be able to get them to you, if they have any left. We are phasing out the old cards so when these are gone, we are done with cards until we can come up with a better fit for all of us. As of now, only new formed Chapters are receiving Membership cards in their new Chapter packet.

We have insured thirty-three (33) Chapter events this year and have had one (1) cancel due to COVID. The season is winding down here in North America, so I do not see a lot more events being insured. Please take advantage of this great program we have. It is a good piece of mind for the Chapter for a very low cost. If you have any questions about the insurance, please call or email me.

The advertising in our low membership areas has hit its stride and I am looking forward to getting the calls and emails asking for more information soon. Our MAL's are doing a great job in forming multiple new Chapters this past year!

Just as a reminder for ALL Chapters. Make sure your email is up and running and being checked by someone because ALL official documentation coming from this office will ONLY go to the Chapter email address assigned by the RKIFMC.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their support over the past 15 years that I have had the privilege to serve you in the respective positions I have been elected to. I will be retiring as your International Secretary at the 2022 Convention and will not be seeking any new position on the board. It has been a great ride and I hope that I have done my part to improve this amazing organization. It is now time for Marie and I to ride off into the sunset and enjoy the organization and all our brothers and sisters from out behind that table!!

As always, keep the shiny side up and your knees in the wind!

Loyal to Our Duty  
Jack Jarvis  
International Secretary



#### **TREASURER - Scott Ryan**

As it turned out, 2021 wasn't a lot better than 2020 for rides, rallies, and meetings. By the time there was any loosening on the International border the rallies were over. I am not sure if it's safe to say it's got to be better next year, so I won't. It was very unfortunate the Convention was cancelled; the location is only a few hours from home, so I was definitely going to be able to make that one. I was able to get in a few rides with chapters in the neighbourhood and to attend a number of other local charity rides.

Although not in person, I did attend all the board meetings in 2021 virtually. This is the second year for some board members who I have yet to meet face-to-face.

I know I am not alone in the restrictions; I hear it all the time from chapters who are questioning the future. Many are faced with more limitations than I have been, so I do realize I have been fortunate. Thankfully, there has been no greater reduction in numbers (of members or chapters) than in normal years.

A big thank you to all the chapters for getting the quarterly roster updates in. It is improving every year. It is always great to hear from the Chapters around the world. I am in a very enviable position of getting to hear from all of them and the scope of our club really comes through when I hear what is happening around the world.

Following are notes I like to keep at the bottom of all my reports so members can find it easy.

One of the main questions I get is how much the dues are. Unfortunately, our By-Laws do not outline the dues in a nice easy to understand format. The note below I will include in each of my quarterly reports, so member know where to find it anytime you sign up a new member, these are also on the second page of the rosters I send out each fall. I would also like to ask chapter to please provide me with updated rosters whenever new members join.

### **Chapter Member Dues:**

Renewal by January 1 = \$17 Active/Associate, \$11 Social/Honorary (\$50 late fee after February 15<sup>th</sup>)  
NEW member = \$20 all members; \$15 for those joining in August/September; back to \$20 for those joining after October 1 and it covers to the end of the following year  
Joining a second chapter or more = \$17 Active & Associate, \$11 Social & Honorary (25% off August/September)  
NEW Chapter application fee = \$35

### **MAL Dues:**

Renewal = \$19 Active, \$14 Social (\$10 late fee after March 31)  
NEW MAL = \$10 application fee + \$19 Active, \$14 Social (25% off August/September).

All dues are US Dollars and due January 1. Options are to mail a check, pay from your PayPal account directly to [treasurer@redknightsmc.com](mailto:treasurer@redknightsmc.com) or through one of the PayPal links on our website at <http://www.redknightsmc.com/membership.htm> with the "Chapter or MAL Name" button being perhaps the easiest (all you have to do is change the quantity to the total amount of dues being paid). In 2018 I changed address, checks now need to be mailed to me at PO Box 343, Charlottetown, PE, C1A7K7.

Ride safe, I hope to see you soon.  
Scott



### **REGION 1 DIRECTOR - Eric Jock**

2021 has been a whirlwind of a year. Fortunately, it is in the review mirror!

It has claimed many of our brothers and sisters and they have joined the ranks of the Heaven One roster. Please keep those families and chapters in your thoughts and prayers and honor them by continuing their legacy within your chapter. Since I was elected in August, I have had the distinct honor to present the International Heaven One protocols to four Region One deceased member families. If your chapter has questions about the Heaven One program, please contact your state representative for clarification and assistance. I can assure you; they can and will assist you.

During these first months as your Region One director, I have learned so much of the inner workings and day to day operations of this amazing organization. I am thrilled to see the Region One chapters thriving, working together, and keeping the lines of communication open between themselves, their state representatives and me. The Region One state representatives are working hard and doing a great job. As a group we have Zoom meetings and work together to keep moving forward. Chapters are continuing their fundraising efforts with revolutionary ideas by hosting rides and different events in a safe and organized manor. It makes me proud to see you all succeed in your own ways.

This past riding season I was able to attend many different events, some overnight trips, and numerous day trips. Most of my miles were logged with my wife Katie. Like me, she loves to tack on the miles on our Goldwing. I am happy to report that I have been able to visit and attended numerous rides, meetings, picnics, as well as simple meet-n-greets in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine. Connecticut and Rhode Island can expect me this coming year, along with many other stops along the way.

I also had the pleasure of attending Vermont, New York, Maine, and New Jersey state meetings this year and I look forward to seeing you all during the 2022 season!

Congratulations to Massachusetts-2 member Rick Oliver for being the 2021 Perry Carter Award winner. Thank you for your years of dedication to our organization and the continued work that you do.

It does appear that the first Yankee Rally in 3 years will happen! The rally committee and New York Chapter 50 members are working hard to bring you all a safe, well-oiled, well planned, back to basics, Yankee Rally. The plans have been in the works for over 6 years now! All Rally information and

registration forms can be found on the International website ([www.redknightsmc.com](http://www.redknightsmc.com)) in the EVENTS section, as well as the official Yankee Rally 2022 "Take 2-in-22" Facebook page.

A reminder to any Region-1 chapter interested in hosting a Yankee Rally:

As decided in Clifton Park NY, Yankee Rally host chapters for the next 2 years (2023 and 2024) will be chosen in 2022. Then, at each rally going forward, we will select one hosting chapter, so the selected will have 2 years available for planning. For the 2023 host, you will have a year from June to put together a rally, so planning now for an awesome presentation will benefit you greatly in your bid.

I am averaging 10 to 12 hours a week performing my duties as your Region-1 Director. This time excludes any travel. This past fall I attended my first International Executive Board meeting via Zoom, and I look forward to the in-person spring meeting, scheduled to be held in Maryland, in April. It is my absolute pleasure serving the board, and I look forward to what is yet to come!

As we move into 2022, I have a few personal challenges to all the Region One chapters.

First, I highly encourage you and your chapter to visit the Red Knights Memorial Hall in Boylston, MA. You don't have to stay the night, but if you can, so much the better. The reservation form is on the Red Knights website under MEMORIAL FOUNDATION. Stop and honor the Heaven One members listed on the memorial obelisks. Take it all in, see the 9-11 steel. It really is a special place that I firmly feel each Red Knight should strive to see. Secondly, as a chapter, reach out to a neighbouring chapter, offer to meet with them, take a ride with them, have lunch with them, get ice cream, spend time together talking. That is where some of the best ideas come from. Doing so will form new friendships and build upon the brotherhood that we all have come to love!

My last challenge to everyone reading this report is to attend a local rally or the international convention. If there is only one event you can do a year, chose one and go! Once you attend a large event I believe you will understand what it truly is to be a Red Knight.

In closing, I hope you all had a very blessed holiday season with friends and family. I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year. Stay positive, be kind to one other and strangers alike. Keep moving forward and strive to be all you and your chapter can be. Give thanks and pray for all our service men and women, first responders and hospital staff, for keeping our freedoms, keeping us safe and taking care of us when needed.

I am always here as a friend or as your director.

Please always remain, "Loyal to our duty" Red Knights Forever!

**Eric Jock Region One Director**

[Region1@redknightsmc.com](mailto:Region1@redknightsmc.com)



**REGION 2 DIRECTOR - Leo Patry**

January 1, 2021 till December 31, 2021

Well another year ended with Covid 19 still cancelling meetings and events it's time to reflect on my activities as the Regional Director for the past year.

2021 has been very close to the same as 2020 with the outbreak of the Corona 19 virus pandemic still shutting down almost every Red Knights event and meeting in Region 2

Most of our chapters in the region have not been able to hold any events or meetings since 2019 and have in some cases been trying to hold Zoom meetings to try and keep their chapter members engaged and informed.



With the cancellation of the Atlantic Association Rally in June and then the Ontario Association Rally in July, followed by the cancellation of the August International Convention in Saint John New Brunswick plus all scheduled local chapter rides and events it's been a major disappointment to all our membership.

With the arrival of 2022 and the increase in the number of people getting a vaccination for the Corona virus it is hoped that by late spring or early summer we will once again be able to hold rides, events and get meetings rescheduled within the region.

I encourage all the members of Region 2 to consider early registration for the scheduled 2022 International Convention to be held August 18 – 21 2022 in Johnstown Pennsylvania hosted by the Pennsylvania chapter 22. The chapter with help from the other PA chapters have put together a great program for the membership to once again have the opportunity to travel to a great location with spectacular scenery to be enjoyed and accompanied by great fellowship.

Members are also encouraged to keep checking the events web site of the International.

My time log for 2021 shows that I spent 318 hours averaging out to 6.12 hours per week on Red Knights Emails and calls

Unfortunately because the Canada US Boarder has been closed I have not been able to attend any of our scheduled Executive Officer meetings in person but have taken part in those held by means of a Zoom meeting.

In closing I would ask that we give thought to those four Red Knight members from Region 2 that passed away in 2020

*David Sleeman*                      *Ontario 13*

*Marie-Claude Yannonie*        *Quebec 3*

*Bruce Baldwin*                    *Ontario 7*

*Thomas Phillips*                 *Ontario 11*

**Leo Patry, Region 2 Director**



**REGION 3 DIRECTOR - Trey Anderson**

Here we are again, another End of Year Report. I swear the years go by faster and faster. Yet again we faced a year with boarder closings, cancelations, and forced “social distancing”. However, we prevailed. Unfortunately, 2021 we were yet again forced to cancel our beloved Annual Red Knights International Convention. I have a lot of confidence in 2022 to bring us even closer to our normal! Even though we did have some cancelations, the year provided many of us with plenty of gatherings, rides, and rallies across Region 3. With 2020 serving as a chapter revival in many areas I feel like 2021 brought us back to long distance riding and socializing with other chapters across Region 3. As 2022 comes zooming around the corner, I hope we all can hang a little heavy on the throttle and get by this Sunday driver named CoVid, that seems to be holding us all up.

The highlight in Region 3 as tradition holds true was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Region 3 Bootleggers Rally. I have to give a huge credit to Indiana as they put their own little twist on the event, calling it the “Hosedown”. I wasn't able to arrive until Thursday Night where I was greeted by some late nighters sitting around a bonfire in the parking lot, YES, I said in the parking lot! Friday we all enjoyed a group ride bright and early. When the ride returned at noon lunch was served with biker games to follow. In between lunch and dinner was some time to relax and socialize. Prior to dinner the Hosedown King and Queen was announced. Congratulations to Tink (MS2), and Dan Huemmer (IL23) being crowned the 2021 Hoesdown Queen and King! After dinner we socialized more with live entertainment. Saturday was entirely too short of a day. The guys and Gals from Indiana had so much for us to do! It started with a group ride with lunch being provided. Following the ride, we had a delicious pulled pork dinner with awards and prizes.

And of course, more live entertainment! The 2021 Bootlegger will forever be an event to remember! Thank you to Woody, Max and all of your committee for a wonderful time!

### **2021 Bootlegger Event Totals**

- **Six Regions** Region 1, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6
- **20 States** IN, IL, WI, OH, WV, PA, NJ, NY, MA, AL, MD, MS, GA, VA, NC, MN, IA, ND, TX, OK
- **55 Chapters** IN 2, IN 3, IN 1, IN 4, IN 6, IN 11, IL 14 (largest chapter present) IL 23, WI 2, WI 6, OH 1, OH 7, OH 14, OH 16, WV 8, WV 9, PA 9, PA 11, PA 22, PA 24, PA 34, PA 39, NJ 4, NJ 5, NJ 19, NJ 22, NJ 31, NJ 33, NY 3, NY 43, NY 49, NY 53, MA 13, MA 15, AL 2, AL 4, AL 9, AL 14, MD 4, MD 6, MD 7, MS 2, GA2, GA5, GA 20, GA 26, VA 6, VA 8, NC 21, MN 4, MN 7, IA 2, ND 2, TX 4, OK 7
- **1 MAL** NJ
- **Attendees** 216

PA 38 has stepped up to the plate and will be hosting the 2022 Bootleggers Rally. As the time draws closer, I'm excited to see what our Pennsylvania Brothers and Sisters bring to the event. I'm sure Emmitt and his crew will knock it out of the park!

Riding season for our Region has come to an end. However, this does not mean we should hibernate in the house and forget our brothers and sisters. Make sure you get to your Chapter meetings and get together. You don't need to do something over the tome to hangout and be together! I wish you all a very Happy New Year and hopefully we will see you soon!

Fraternally,  
Trey Anderson, Region 3 Director  
Red Knights WV Chapter 8



#### **REGION 4 DIRECTOR - Steve Guillot**

As I look back at 2021 as a Regional 4 Director and a member of this great organization it has been a great year. Under these trying times with Covid 19 many people are back to normal lifestyles. It is nice to see everyone is now doing rides and events back to normal.

This past year I have attended the International Convention Meeting concerning 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland. In April I attended the Spring Board Meeting in Maryland. In May I attended the Dixie Rally in Culpepper, Virginia. I also attended a couple of funerals and sent honors of the flag and coin on behalf of the Board. All these trips were a success and a great honor to have been able to attend. I am looking forward to seeing Red Knights Brothers and Sisters in 2022.

To all Red Knights Brothers and Sisters that have passed this last year may they Rest in Peace and I ask that all members throughout this great organization to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. May God Bless Them All.

I hope you all had a blessed Holiday Season. I wish you all a Safe and Healthy New Year.

After carefully considering, I respectfully will not seek reelection as a Regional 4 Director. I greatly appreciate the people who have supported and voted for me for this position. After holding this position for this term, I have learned that it takes a little more than I have to offer at the present time.

I think any person that holds this position should be able to support other Region Rally's, which I was unable to do, due to work. With that said, I would like to thank the International Board Members who helped me through the past two years as well as Region 4 State Representatives and Members.

Sincerely,

**Steven Guillot, Region 4 Director**

[Region4@Redknightsmc.com](mailto:Region4@Redknightsmc.com)



#### **REGION 5 DIRECTOR - Lance Coit**

Brothers and Sisters, Another year in the books for Region 5. Once again it was a difficult year with the U.S. and Canadian border being closed again. We once again have been keeping in touch with our Regional Zoom meetings for those who wished to participate. We did take a break having them the real nice months of the summer due to a lack of participation. Once fall came upon us we started back up where we left off. We have even had some new members participate which is always good to see, and I hope that keeps up.

Over the past year we didn't have any regionally sponsored meetings or rally's due to COVID. I did see that some of our Region 5 members did travel to the Bootlegger Rally and sounds like they had a lot of fun. As for everybody else it looked like most chapters held events close to their chapters and got back to doing a lot of the fundraising events they usually did in the past. That was great to see.

ND2 is moving forward to host the Western Rally in Devils Lake, ND. They are looking forward to hosting it and it should be a lot of fun. I know a lot of members are planning on attending. It will be great to see as many members as we can. The Canadian border may still be an issue but I am hoping it opens without restrictions so they can participate also.

Once again, I look forward to serving as the Region 5 director for another year. I hope to get out to as many chapter events that I can. As always, I encourage all the chapters and MAL's to get together in your areas and promote the Red Knights as a whole. Through the pandemic we are still holding our own in membership numbers which is great. Hope to see as many of you as I can this summer. Ride safe and stay healthy.

**Lance Coit, Region 5 Director**



#### **REGION 6 DIRECTOR - Allen Aurich**

Hello fellow Red Knights, 2021 has been a better year than 2020 but was still a slow year. In Region 6 I was able to attend the Oklahoma State meeting in May, and the Texas State meeting in June.

In the last month or so our chapters were able to get out and raise money and collect toys for families and children for the holidays.

On the International Board side, we have been holding monthly zoom meetings to help keep our club running smoothly.

Our MAL from Mexico Carlos Arzate came to the US twice once to Phoenix, Arizona and Chicago, Illinois. He was able to meet up with Red Knights in those areas.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 convention in Johnstown, PA.

Stay safe and be careful until we meet again.

Respectfully submitted By,

**Allen Aurich, Region 6 Director**



#### **REGION 7 DIRECTOR - Tom van der Kley**

Dear brothers and sisters,

First of all, I want to wish you all a happy new year and, in these days, more important than ever: a good health!

This is my first end of the year report, and when I took over, I thought to myself: what can happen in just 4 months under Corona that is worth writing about?

But I was taught better. In this short time a lot has already happened. Particularly noteworthy was the European rally in Oostkamp, which was a huge success. Almost 400 members met to celebrate and chat together and to have a good time.

This was somewhat limited under the prescribed corona measures, but nevertheless a complete success. Once again, I would like to thank the hosting chapter for a very successful weekend.

Afterwards we were invited to a small party at the Männeke Piss in Brussels. Once a year we have the great honor to equip him with our colors and he is allowed to represent them proudly the whole weekend. With a pipes and drums escort we were led from the meeting point to the Männeke Piss, which certainly gave some of us goose bumps. After an official speech of the city of Brussels, some photos were taken, and everyone could then if desired still see Brussels something.

Then it went to a 50th birthday with a simultaneous chapter birthday party.

I also had the great pleasure to participate in some meetings of the international board, as well as phone calls with the members. It was and is very nice to see how committed, motivated, and cordial everyone is.

In Europe we have also had the good fortune that some new chapters have been founded. I would like to congratulate them and welcome them to the big family.

Finally, one more thing that is particularly close to my heart:

In these times where we are doing relatively well, please also think of those who are not doing so well. Even in our ranks there are people who are struggling at the moment. Try to support and help them as much as you can. Take care of each other and help and support each other as best you can.

I wish you all a happy new year, good health and an even better season.

Fraternally

**Tom van der Kley, Regional Director Region 7**



**REGION 8 DIRECTOR - Ken Mahon**

Kia Ora and greetings fellow Red Knights. I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with your Families and loved ones.

Firstly, I wish to express my condolences to all the Brothers and Sisters who have lost loved ones during the year including Fifty Seven Red Knights that are no longer with us. May they

Ride in Peace.

Well, it's been another crazy year of Zoom meetings, cancelled rides and Events but good to see the solidarity of this great organization throughout the world. I love seeing the support offered to fellow Red Knights in their time of need by other Brothers and Sisters from all over the world.

Thanks to all the Red Knights International Firefighters Board Members for all your assistance during the year, I have learnt so much from every one of you. The energy and enthusiasm and plain hard work and time you all put in to protect our members and the Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club is outstanding.

I would like to express my thanks to Andy Young for all his assistance during 2021 as Australian Representative your help has been invaluable and much appreciated Andy.

It's been a busy year for Region 8 Chapters and even with the effects of Covid lockdowns etc., Australian and New Zealand chapters have done some great community work and fundraising events for needy causes during this time. I won't go into too much detail and spoil the Newsletter articles but well done to everyone involved.

New Zealand was lucky and the 2021 Gathering took place 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March in Paihia a beautiful seaside town located in the North Island. It was also the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NZI a rather special occasion for all involved.

We appreciated our International President Joey getting out of bed in the middle of the night to join in our evening event via a Zoom call to say a few words and Norm Beausoleil for doing a video recognizing NZI's twenty-year anniversary.

I also had the pleasure of presenting on behalf of Roger van Kollenburg (Aus 5) Australia & New Zealand Grand Tour Committee Coordinator, some Grand Tour Master awards to the recipient's along with other a variety of other tour awards at the Gathering.

This is a great way to get out riding and visit some fire Stations. All the info is on the web page have a go. May even gain some new members

I have enjoyed assisting Chapters, MAL's and individual members of the Red Knights in Region 8 with any issues or problems and as always available to you all at any time. So don't hesitate to get in touch with me with any concerns problems or even just a chat.

There is one thing I would Challenge all Presidents of Chapters in Region 8 to achieve in 2022 That is to take ownership and ensure that rosters updates and Dues for your Chapter are sent in and paid on time. The amount of time spent by International and Regional Directors every year chasing Chapters up is ridiculous. It is not hard or rocket science to achieve this.

**RULES & REGULATIONS RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB®** Section 6: The Chapter Executive Board shall keep an accurate Chapter membership list and it is their responsibility to keep it current, forwarding it to the International Treasurer quarterly, noting any changes.

Yours sincerely,  
**Ken Mahon**

# 2021 GRAND TOUR YEAR END REPORT

Another Covid riding season is over. Despite most of the year having some sort of travel restrictions members and friends completed more rides in 2021 than the past 4 years. We now have a total of 7710 rides completed and 515 Grand Tour Masters have been issued since the Grand Tour Program has been started.



2021 year had 535 Grand Tour Rides have been completed, 41 of these members achieved their Grand Tour Master Tab and 17 guests completed rides. 221 members completed a Grand Tour ride for the First Time (this is a new record). Thank you for your support from all the Grand Tour Committee Members.

## Completed Year End Grand Tour Report 2021

Grand Tour Master	41
Grand Tour	74
Red Knights Tour	136
Fire Station Tour	71
12 Station Tour	220
Alphabet	34
Guest Pins	17

At the end of 2021 the Grand Tour Committee consisted of Emmett Duprey (PA 38) as the Grand Tour Chairman. Tom Hoedjes (Switzerland 1) as European Coordinator. Roger van Kollenburg (Aus 5) as Australia/New Zealand Coordinator.

Tom Hoedjes has decided to step down at the end of 2021 and Rolf Muehlemann (Switzerland 1) has been appointed the European Coordinator. We want to thank Tom for all his years with the Grand Tour Program. We also would like to welcome Rolf to the Committee.

From the Grand Tour Committee to all of you, have a safe riding season and hope to see you at a Convention or Rally in 2022.

Emmett Duprey  
Grand Tour Chairman  
Coordinator

Tom Hoedjes  
European Coordinator

Roger van Kollenburg  
Australia/New Zealand

And coming to a certificate in 2022 Rolf Muehlemann as the new European Coordinator.

# CONGRATULATIONS

It is tradition at the Annual International Convention to reward those members who have contributed greatly to the Red Knights throughout the year, and at the last Convention the following people were recognised for their outstanding contributions.

## PERRY CARTER AWARD

## Red Knight of the Year 2021 - Rick Oliver



Rick Oliver was awarded the 2021 Perry Carter Award for his outstanding efforts helping raise money for the RKMC Memorial House fund.



Soon after the announcement of Rick's award he posted these comments on Facebook;  
*"I am in total shock at the moment!  
Thanks to all the Red Knights for this amazing honor!! What a family we have."*

As he stepped down from his position as Region 7 Director, **Pierre Halleux** and **Patricia Witmeur** were honored with Life Membership Awards  
**Congratulations**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Thanks must be given to our outgoing Regional Directors. Matt Mattera and Pierre Halleux for the work they have done in their positions as Region 1 and Region 7 Directors.

*Thank you Gentlemen for your service and dedication to the Red Knights.*

# ITEMS FOR SALE?

Do you have any motorcycle related items that you no longer want?

Turn them into cash by selling them on the Red Knights

International Firefighters Motorcycle Club Trading Post

Facebook Page.

It is free to advertise your items on this page and they can be viewed and hopefully bought by Red Knights brothers and sisters.

The Facebook page link is;

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/432682693604721/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/432682693604721/?ref=group_header)

Click on the link above to go to the Trading Post page and start

selling those unwanted items.

## \*\*\*\* ATTENTION ALL RED KNIGHTS \*\*\*\*

The Red Knights Memorial in Boylston,  
is **NOT** maintained in the winter months.

If you visit the Memorial and the logo is  
covered with leaves, snow, ice, **PLEASE**  
**DO NOT** sweep, scrape or use any other  
means to clear it off. The logo is fragile  
and does not tolerate scraping.

Your attention to this very important matter is appreciated.





# COFFEE BREAK PICTURE QUIZ TIME!

Here are images of parts of 12 motorcycles, can you name them?



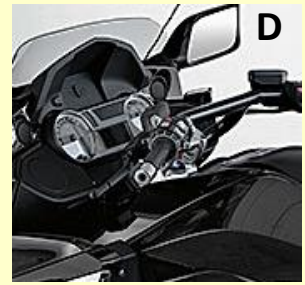
A



B



C



D



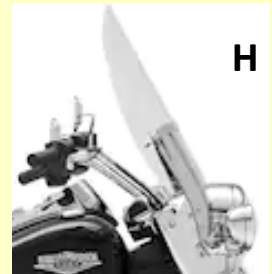
E



F



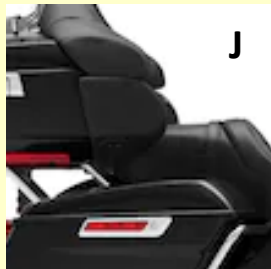
G



H



I



J



K



L

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot 10 differences between the two photographs below?



Find answers after the Regional Articles

# Boylston Memorial Visitors



# 40 YEAR PATCH COMMITTEE

Greetings my brothers and sisters!

As this time has come to pass, we celebrate 40 years in the greatest club. I had the unique honor serving as the 40 year patch design contest committee chairman. August 29th I was in route to the Bootlegger Rally.

I'd check Facebook during breaks on the bike. I saw a posting from Norm B., one of the Founding Fathers, reminding us that we're approaching 40 years as a club. I merely asked if someone was doing a patch. Well it started this. Norm then approached the RKIFMC Board and the Founding Fathers. They decided on a contest giving all members a chance to submit including me and nominated me to chair it. I never submitted a design for entry. Oh I wanted to. Headaches aside, we got through it.

With 10,000 plus members, we had 19 entries. The Founding Fathers met in December and selected their first and runner up choices. Then the committee turn over the selected design to the RKIFMC Board for approval. Board approved the design.

The selected design reflects the growth of the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club.

We have had representatives in 27 countries. We currently stand at 24.

Chapters in 19 countries.

I thank the Founding Fathers, the RKIFMC Board of Directors, and my committee Norm, Sara-lynn, and Jack who resigned from the committee early on.

Congratulations to Chad Rabideau NY50 for the winning design.

I asked Chad to submit his story.

Sincerely

Lance Solberg

RKIFMC 40 Year Patch Committee Chairman



## Chad Rabideau's Story

I am so excited, proud, honored and humbled. A while back, I entered the international contest requiring the design of our 40th anniversary patch for Red Knights® International Motorcycle Club in which I am an active member. After time passed and waiting anxiously, I received a zoom call congratulating my win! I am proud to represent my NY 50 chapter brothers and sisters and I am proud to be a Red Knight! Thank you to everyone involved. I hope to have the chance to ride beside each and every one of you. ♥ Yee Haw!

# Region 1

(Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York)

## **Eric Jock's words after being elected as the new Region 1 Director (21<sup>st</sup> August 2021)**

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone across Region One for the support of my candidacy for the Region One Director position in the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. Thank you all for the calls, text messages and social media messages of support, I can barely keep up and I am humbled beyond imaginable belief. Your support of my election means more than you all will ever know. I need to also give special thanks to my amazing wife Katie, without your continued support of everything I do none of this would be possible. I would also like to thank my home chapter, New York 50, I am very proud of the chapter we have become and look forward to what is to come.



I just spoke to Matt and I would like to thank him for his friendship and leadership for our region over the last 6 years. Thank you, Matt, for the hard work and countless hours you put in. I am confident that our friendship will continue far into the future.

To the members of Region One, I promise to always keep my head level, door open, phone on and mind open. I have a lot of work ahead of me, I have much to learn, and I look forward to it all. I am deeply honoured to serve the International Board for the next 2 years. Tonight, because we cannot gather in person in St. John, New Brunswick I will relax with my chapter, friends and family and think of all my Red Knights family - near and far. I cannot wait to see you all in person and get back to normal.

Tomorrow I hit the ground running.

But for tonight I thank you, from the bottom of my heart. As always stay safe, be kind, and know that I will always remain

“Loyal to our Duty”

Eric Jock

Region One Director

Red Knights International Motorcycle Club

# NEW YORK 42's Wounded Warrior Bucket Brigade Fund Raiser



On Sunday afternoon August 8th, the firefighters motorcycle club The Red Knights NY Chapter 42 held a meeting at The Bath Volunteer Fire Department and released the results of how the Bucket Brigade for The Wounded Warrior Project went for this year's ride. The ride was kept to a Poker Run due to the fact that the COVID-19 variant was on the rise. We believe this is one reason why turnout was smaller than we hoped but was reasonable. There were 126 registered riders who participated in our approximately 100-mile ride around our beautiful Southern Tier area. We are very thankful for all those who participated in this year's ride, and we think all had a good time. The 2020 ride was cancelled due to COVID-19.



A check will be written from the club treasurer in the amount of \$2,100 to The Wounded Warrior Project that was raised from registrations, 50/50 and scratch off lottery tickets that were raffled. This brings our total to date raised for The Wounded Warrior Project to \$34,950 since 2013. Our plans for 2022 are to return to our original format with a similar ride with a meal and

entertainment at the end of the ride. There was also a vendor at the end of the ride who sells Wounded Warrior apparel, flags, and trinkets of which all profit also goes to The

Wounded Warrior Project. The amount made at the tent is unknown, but their participation was appreciated. (Update: tent amount was \$1,875).

It takes a lot of people to put on an event of this nature and we want to thank Amy Hoad Parmelee of Keuka Lake and Land Realty and WVIN 98.3 Radio for the coverage and advertising, the Station 26 restaurant in Cohocton for hosting a stop along with a hamburger bar and a generous \$500 donation for the Wounded Warrior Project, Arkport



Harley Davidson who hosted a stop and gave all participants on our ride a 15% discount on apparel, helmets and accessories, The Valley Inn in Branchport for hosting a stop as well as The Wooden Nickle, The Office Bar and the Central Hotel in Bath for hosting our final card draw locations and their hospitality.

Also, as every year T & R Towing for donating a chase vehicle in case someone has a breakdown or other needs and The Volunteer Ambulance Corps. of Bath for a chase vehicle with an EMT.

Our firefighter community was also in mourning for the loss of a long-time friend and brother firefighter from the Savona Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Steve Beebe who passed away in the early morning hours before our ride. There was a moment of silence in Steve's memory and fire boots were passed through the crowd of riders during the ride meeting to collect money for Steve's family. \$375 was collected and The Red Knights NY Chapter 42 is adding \$125 to make it \$500 which will be given to Steve's wife.



## **NEW STATE REP FOR NEW HAMPHIRE**

Congratulations are in order to the new Red Knights New Hampshire State Representative Colin Nelson of NH Chapter 9. At the October Chapter Presidents meeting Colin accepted the position as Dave Weymouth stepped down after serving for many years. Colin then led the cadre of NH Chapter officers with the initiation and review of a proposed SOG for the administration and organization of the NH State Representative position representing the NH Chapters. The SOG includes adding an Assistant State Rep and State Rep Secretary. Officers in attendance voted Blue Kelloway, president of NH 5, as Assistant State Rep, and Steve Pelechowicz, VP of NH 5 as Secretary. The Group has been meeting twice a year for several years even before the NH International Convention held in 2019 and consider it most beneficial to exchange information and schedules.

# New York 11 members Honored to take part in the Flags Across America project

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021, Donna Koch, Ernie Navarra and Kevin Richard were asked to participate in the Flags Across America project during the 20th anniversary 9/11 ride.

Over 50 American Flags were flown over the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial. These flags were also flown over the Flight 93 Memorial and will be flown over the Twin Towers Memorial on Sunday. They will be hand delivered to the



lower 48 states by the President of the Flags Across America organization and sent to Alaska and Hawaii and the US territories.

These flags were signed on the border by dignitaries from each Memorial as well as the founders of the Americas 9/11 Ride and the officers of Flags Across America.

Donna, Ernie and Kevin felt very honored to be asked to participate in this patriotic event and especially proud to represent RKNY III while doing so!



## New Hampshire Red Knights sure have been busy!

### ‘SPRING FLING’-May

NH Red Knights Spring Fling is hosted annually by Mile Away campground. A New Hampshire Red Knights family owns the campground and opens it for the gathering of the NH chapters to meet and greet, enjoy some food and drink and exchange their season riding plans. Always a great time and we then look forward to seeing each other again during the season.



*Spring Fling Attendees*

# A COUPLE OF MEMORIAL RIDES-June and July

## BOYLSTON HEADQUARTERS

NH Chapter 9 led several members of the New Hampshire Chapters to our Red Knights Headquarters in Boylston this past June to visit with our fallen memorial and the Red Knights memorial hall. Always a long ride but well worth it to pay tribute to where it all began.

## FALLEN SEVEN MEMORIAL

In July, members of NH5 were invited to go on a beautiful scenic ride through the mountains of New Hampshire on a ride we would never forget! Destination... Mount Jefferson Motel & Cabins; location of the Fallen 7 Memorial in Randolph, N.H.. The



memorial was created in honor of the seven Jar Heads killed June 21, 2019. The feelings experienced upon arrival could not be described, as I'm sure you can imagine. Rest in peace; Albert 'Woody' Mazza, Michael 'Fritz' Ferazzi, Daniel 'Danny Boy' Pereira, Edward 'Taz' & Joanne Corr, Aaron 'Stitches' Perry, and Desma Oakes.

The Fallen 7 Memorial in Randolph, NH

## Annual NHPFEF NH Police, Fire, EMS Ride

Led by Colin Nelson, Member NH 9 and newly elected NH State Representative, many NH chapters and local police attended to make the ride on the scenic NH backroads. Starting and ending at Laconia Harley Davidson, with Raffles and plenty of good grub, the ride was a success.



Colin is on the board for the NHPFEF whose charter is:

*“To be a resource for the needs of Police, Fire, and EMS personnel and their families in dealing with crisis or catastrophes not covered by insurance or employing agencies and/or workers compensation funds.”*

You are all invited for next year. Plan on the first Saturday in August.



# BLUE KNIGHTS MEMORIAL JOINS RED KNIGHTS

In August, this year's annual ride to the Red Knights Memorial stone installed in New Hampshire Veterans cemetery, Boscawen, NH was special this year as we joined our brothers and sisters of the Blue Knights Police MC club as they unveiled their memorial stone directly across from the Red Knights Memorial. We plan to share our ride schedules.



*Blue Knights Memorial*



*“BLUE KNIGHTS LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB. DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FURTHER SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND STATE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. DONATED BY NH4. RIDE WITH PRIDE”*

A short ceremony was held at the Red Knights memorial stone in the veterans cemetery followed by the unveiling of the Blue Knights memorial stone and then all stopping for a comingled lunch.

The Red Knights memorial was created by NH5 and dedicated by all the chapters attending the New Hampshire International Convention 2019.



*Red Knights Memorial*

*“THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY TO RETURN HOME TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES. THEY CAME WITH STRENGTH, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS. TO ALWAYS REMAIN: LOYAL TO OUR DUTY”*

# NEW HAMPSHIRE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Dedicated to those fallen firefighters New Hampshire Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony was held September 25th at 10 AM. There were 4 Fallen Firefighters' names added to this year's memorial.



NH Red Knights were in attendance to honor those fallen and pay their respects to Harold Frey of NH 5.

## SEPTEMBER 11 TWENTY YEAR CEREMONY

In remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the world trade towers, a local Veterans club held a ceremony to remember those who responded and lost their lives. NH5 includes several veterans and were in attendance.



Complete with honor guard and 21 gun salute, the ceremony continued by placing 13 flags around the Bronze Battle Field Cross as a solemn tribute to those 13 service men and women killed in Kabul, Afghanistan. Being a former Corpsman, NH5 President Blue Kelloway said it was his honor to place the flag for fallen Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, who was assigned to 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. The ceremony ended with the sounding of TAPS.

# KNIGHT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Back in 2017, NH5 started the tradition of awarding a member the NH Chapter 5 Red Knight of the Year award. Using secret ballot voting, the members have spoken and the award was presented to Steve Pelechowicz at the Chapters annual dinner. The award certificate states:

*“Steve is selected as Red Knight of the year for distinguishing himself by always stepping up to help with dedication of service to the club. A voice of new ideas to actively expand membership and retain younger members, encouraging the support of the goals and values of our chapter. Also looking to support charitable rides of other chapters/organizations benefitting our surrounding communities. Steve is always ready to ride and wants to keep the club moving in a forward direction. He continues to be a valued member of the club and reflects great credit upon himself, and NH Chapter 5 Firefighter’s Motorcycle Club. Presented this, 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021”*



(Previous awardees: Blue Kelloway 2017, Jim Voss 2018, Rich Provencal 2019, Ruth Kelloway 2020)

The award was presented to Steve by Jane Toomire, nominations and President Blue Kelloway, membership Jim Voss looking on.

# END OF THE YEAR ANNUAL CELEBRATION



What a great night to celebrate the end of 2021. Red knights N.H. chapter 5 Holiday gathering. We look forward to a greater 2022. Loyal to our Duty!

The chapter presented our waitress with a thousand dollars over what members tipped on their meal. She was tearfully overwhelmed and told us in all her years she has never received that much of a tip. We believe it.



# Region 2

(Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario)

**No articles submitted from this Region**

# Region 3

(Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wisconsin)

Hello, my brothers and sisters worldwide!

This year the world had opened up for some places just long enough to enjoy some ride time here in this now frozen tundra we call Region 3.

First off please pray for an early spring as well as prayers for all of our brothers and sisters we have lost the last year. Prayers that the world finds some peace. The world is slowly opening up from the Covid nightmare. Rallies are resuming, restaurants are returning, and people are getting mobile!

I want to thank all the chapters from Region 3 who have submitted articles this time, we are getting more readers than ever. With that enough of the opening let us see some fun!

Some info from the infamous "Bootlegger Rally" Near and dear to my heart. Indiana3 along with Indiana 2 knocked it out of the park with the "Hose down" the rally was in a true Indiana hometown backyard barbecue style. Amazing, escorted group rides, individual rides with good directions, beautiful scenery, amazing food. The Bootlegger is another you do not want to miss.

For those of you who missed the last here is a repeat and a thought!

Region 3 has been hosting a region wide rally called the "Bootlegger" It received its name due to the entire region was where "Moonshine and Whiskey", fast cars, outlaw driver began to run their product during prohibition, Also Nascar came from these same drivers and many of the drivers grew up running the mountain ridges with moonshine.

Now that I have your attention!

Here are some of Bootlegger # 3 Indiana Style for those who missed it. Illinois boys always on their `A` game as well

# BOOTLEGGER #3 GALLERY



## Region #3

For those of you I am sure you have at least heard of the Bootlegger Rally, well just some things for you to discuss with your chapter. The Bootlegger Rally has been a must do for our region, we are going into our 4th year of this rally and each one has set new and different themes as well as set and raised the bar with each location. The first held on Labor Day weekend 2019 in the mountains of wonderful, wild, West Virginia and was centered around Point Pleasant. (Ya know home of the infamous Moth Man mystery). The second Rally was Labor Day weekend 2020 in beautiful downtown Peoria, Illinois (birthplace of Richard Pryor, Dan Fogelberg.) Are you starting to see the date pattern? `The third rally, yes you guessed it Indiana.

The fourth will be Labor Day weekend 2022 beautiful Dubois, Pa.

Keep watching the Red Knights/ MAL facebook page and look for the Bootlegger rally 2022 facebook page for teasers. You can also find information in Red knights web page. Yes, Malort has become a traditional drink at the Bootlegger if you have not tried this wonderful drink which has an unbelievable flavor make sure when at Bootlegger to see one of Illinois members they usually travel with a bottle or 2 or 5.

Now Brothers and sisters let me tell you, if you haven't experienced how strong the "family" or bonding is you need to attend! Maybe even bring it to your area for 2023, 24, 25.....etc you get the picture! Region 3 covers 7 states and over 70+ chapters which are all in beautiful areas Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Let us see your beautiful state. If you want more information on attending or better yet hosting, please contact me at [region3reporter@redknightsmc.com](mailto:region3reporter@redknightsmc.com) and I will get you to the right people.

Cannot wait to see your city!

Keep the submissions coming! Send them to [region3reporter@redknightsmc.com](mailto:region3reporter@redknightsmc.com)

Hope you enjoyed!

~Maverick



# A HUMBLING SEPTEMBER IN REGION 3



September 12 two big rides occurred both very humbling. The first ride is “the annual ride to remember.”

This ride honors all of our brothers and sisters who were lost during 9/11/2001 and the following years related. The ride sponsored by The Blue Knights and was over 1200 riders. There were several members from multiple Red Knight chapters present as well. Enroute to the ride to remember one of the Red Knight members had some engine trouble and was assisted by another. It was quite an experience from what I understand. (Some pictures hidden to protect the innocent)

The second ride was very humbling. One of the 12 Marines Killed while trying to evacuate Afghanistan, pl. Humberto “Bert” A. Sanchez, 22 of Logansport passed away on August 26, 2021, while serving his country at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

“He sacrificed everything for our country and for our belief or what our country is. The freedoms that we have,” she continued, “he sacrificed that in another country trying to show them the same thing and help them have the same freedoms we have.”

Right behind troopers with the Indiana State Police were bikers with the Indiana Patriot Guard Riders, who came together from across the Hoosier state to honor Cpl. Sanchez. Riders from Indiana and Illinois Red Knights Chapters were present to participate







*During a procession Sunday, there were at least 9,500 motorcycles that helped lead Sanchez back to his hometown.*

## **Some happenings from around Region 3**

Congrats to all the new officers for the year of 2022

### **Pennsylvania Ch 34**

President. Doug Thomas

Vice President. Robert Meade

Treasure. Joanne Wagner

Secretary. Shannon Thomas

Road Captain. Alvin Kishbaugh

Quarter Master. Tyler Patterson

Thank you.

Doug Thomas

## PA 11 2022 Officers

President - Bob Merriman

Vice President - James Gallagher

Secretary - Don Brandt

Treasurer - Dave Lewandowski

Quartermaster - Rick Cummings

Road Captains - James Gallagher

Thanks



*Our 1st Annual Chapter Christmas Party*

Don Brandt

## A message from Doug Thomas from PA 34!

In our area we have a Non-Profit Organization named Patriots Cove. They are located in Noxen, Pa. Their mission is to provide a getaway (time of healing) for Veterans and First Responders. They provide Fishing, Hunting, and other activities as a time to heal mentally and physically. PA34 participates in a lot of fundraisers for the organization and have become friends with them.

Jeff Swire the Co-Founder is trying to get the word out to the First Responder Community that they are there to help them. Whether its adjusting to an injury or just getting your mind right after a bad call.

I would like to spread the word through the Red Knights so if anyone is in need, they can get some help.

Here is their website. [www.patriotscove.org](http://www.patriotscove.org)

PA39 held their 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Ride on a beautiful day in September and in attendance by ninety-four riders who rode 118 miles through Blair, Centre and Huntingdon counties raising \$4000.00 for the Adam Zook Foundation.

It was an awesome day!



PA 39 rode to Benezette in Elk County in August and invited fellow brothers from the Legion Riders to attend. It was a wonderful day together!



PA39 did a 165-mile 12 Station Ride which started out a brisk 43dgrs in October. We had the privilege of viewing some station apparatus and hear the interesting history of this old truck. Such a fun day!



PA39 members rode 245 miles in June through Gettysburg for an ice cream pit stop at Mr. G's and then to Carlisle to visit and tour Hook & Flask Still Works, yay! The last stop was to visit and tour the museum the Union Fire Company, which is the oldest continued service fire station. We hope to repeat this ride in 2022!



PA39 members attended a 9-11 Flag stance at the Jaffa Shrine to memorialize the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our Nation. We were honored to participate with the Legion Riders in this event. PA39 members attended a 9-11 Flag stance at the Jaffa Shrine to memorialize the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our Nation. We were honored to participate with the Legion Riders in this event.



A couple PA39 members rode 458 miles to Watkins Glen, NY and around Seneca Lake. Such amazing sights!



Ohio Chapter 6 held its annual Christmas Gathering in December. We all had a wonderful time getting together. The food and friendship were fantastic.



I could not thank our members enough for their continued commitment to Red Knights Ohio Chapter 6 during these past couple of years. The Officers were each given a plaque of appreciation as a gesture of appreciation.

We are looking forward to a better year in 2022. Hopefully, we will get to see fellow Red Knights at the 2022 Convention.

Happy New Year!!!

Richard A. Merkosky, President, RKMC, Ohio Chapter 6



**OHIO 3** President Tyson Croniser Vice President Chris Wendell and Road Captain Brian Croniser at the Hopedale Ohio Fallen Motorcyclist Memorial Wall.

OHIO 3 President Tyson Croniser Secretary Amanda Croniser Sergeant at Arms Jarred Croniser Treasurer Tori Croniser, Charter Member Lonnie Marbais and Social Member Tiffany Marbais attended 12 Station Tour.



President Tyson Croniser pinning Vice President Chris Wendell with his 5 year pin.



President Tyson Croniser Vice President Chris Wendell and Secretary Amanda Croniser representing the Red Knights in Sugarcreek Ohio at the Swiss Festival Parade



I hope you enjoyed our small portion of Region 3. Spring is right around the corner! Keep the shiny side up and watch for Cages they are not use to motorcycles being out again!

Get out to a rally, event or ride by other chapters, see how tight our Red Knights are and meet family!!!!

See you in Dixie!!!!

~Maverick

# Region 4

(Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Dist of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia)



## CONVENTION 2023 SOLOMONS ISLAND MARYLAND, USA AUGUST 20-26, 2023

### **WE NEED HELP NOW!**

**The host hotel wants requests for 100 rooms by next month to block all 340 just for us**

If you even think you are coming to join us and want to be in the host hotel, Please send email to [convention2023@gmail.com](mailto:convention2023@gmail.com)  
(we need about 60 more in the next few weeks)

Include how many rooms you want, your phone # and which day you plan to arrive(Sun,Mon,Tue,Wed or Thu)

We look forward to seeing you in just 21 months and will have activities all week long

Hotel will contact you in April to get billing information, You can cancel with 14 days notice

# RKMC GEORGIA CHAPTER 26 2021

2020 was exhausting and we had so many plans cancelled or postponed. We were not going to let 2021 be the same. We decided to not host a fund raiser of our own but to participate in as many fund raisers we could. We also wanted to go back to having FUN and RIDING – boy did we. From local events all the way to Indiana and Daytona we rode, we laughed, we ate and we had a blast. Camping trips, rallies, fun weekend rides and a WEDDING! As we always say – Pictures or it did not happen!



Wedding Bells



Honored to remember POW/MIA from Georgia



9 Chapters honoring Fallen FireFighter Ben Gleaton



Camping trip took us to Helen, GA



Rally in Columbus Ga



Just Because!



BOOTLEGGER



Biketoberfest – Daytona



K-9 Charity Ride



One of MANY places great to eat in Daytona



TIP Ride – so much fun and a major feel good moment!



# Region 5

(Alaska, Alberta, , British Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territory, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and Yukon)

## WORDS FROM YOUR REGION 5 REPORTER

Greetings my RKIFMC family,

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB!!!!!!!!!! 40 years old!**

Anyway some pondering thoughts. We find ourselves in a 3rd year of a pandemic that's affected lives of everyone. Lives have been lost. Some left in a very unhealthy way. Forever changed.

My year is been very interesting also. I got to attend Region 3's 3rd annual Bootlegger Rally in Indiana. Had a blast. Thanks

Following that I was selected to chair the 40 year patch contest committee. Congratulations Chad Rabideau of Region 1 NY50.

In December, ND2 was offered the chance to host the Region 5 Western Rally in June which we accepted.



### 2022 WESTERN RALLY - JUNE 16TH TO 19TH

Region 5 added a new chapter MN 9. Welcome Ryan and his crew.

I'd love to hear from my Region 5 chapters and MALs more about most anything.

My emails and phone/text #:

[Region5reporter@redknightsmc.com](mailto:Region5reporter@redknightsmc.com)

[Emofirefighter45@gmail.com](mailto:Emofirefighter45@gmail.com)

701-213-0708

To quote RKIFMC International president Joey Powell, "Make it a point to meet someone new. That's what these Rallies are about.

Start new friendships and make those connections that last a lifetime!"

Rallies, events, rides, and meetings all help with that.

Love you all.

Sincerely Lance

ND2 President

*For more info on the R2R contact MN9  
[MN9@redknightsmc.com](mailto:MN9@redknightsmc.com)*



# IOWA 2 RAISE MONEY FOR BURN CAMP

This year's fundraiser `Wheeling for Healing` came to a close on November 1 2021, we held an end of the year party on November 6 2021 where we had the drawing for the grand prize of \$1000 for the stamp book ride. What is the stamp book ride? It is a fundraiser for St Florian Burn Camp to send kids to camp and we start by getting establishments and businesses to donate to get their prospective business in the book which are then sold to riders, car clubs, side by side clubs or whoever wants to buy one. Those who bought books then have to go to these businesses, purchase something and get them to stamp the book, for each stamped page gets one entry into the drawing. This year we had 100 businesses contribute and if you went to all 100 stops you had 100 entries for the drawing. This year's winner was Kelly Versandaal and she donated a portion of her winnings back to the club. We finished off the night with 50/50 and a raffle along with a silent auction, also `3 On the Tree` performed live on stage at Scooters bar and grill.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December a check was presented to St Florian Burn Foundation for \$7000 this is what was raised in Iowa 2's annual fundraiser 'RKMC IA 2 Wheelin' 4 Healin' Stamp Book ride'. Iowa 2 send thanks to all of their Sponsors and Business's for their support. They are already looking forward to "2022"



# MINNESOTA 4 HELP ONE OF THEIR OWN

I would like to take a few moments to talk about what RK Minnesota 4 has done for my family and give a prime example of what the Red Knights means to us as a family. In April of 2018 I was informed by Treasurer Hadoff that my family was nominated as a beneficiary for their annual Firefighter Fighting Cancer fundraiser. I was speechless, at that time I was facing my second round of cancer which included a 2 month visit that summer to Mayo Clinic for a Stem Cell Transplant.

The Knights helped us out again in 2020 when I was hospitalized with Covid they were especially attentive to my wife and daughters by organizing food, rides and a donation of a fire pit for our yard. A prime example of what this club has done was receiving a motorcycle escort home from the hospital in which 15 Knights participated on very short notice during a weekday. In addition to my Covid experience I was diagnosed with my 3rd round of cancer which is just about clear. But I was again named as one of 4 beneficiaries for the summer 2020 fundraiser. Because of all of this I have regained the courage and confidence to once again be able to partake in rides even leading and road-guarding a few of them.

Without this part of our family I do not know where we would be today the generosity and love that has been given to us is beyond all words.

We became RK Minnesota 4 members in 2018 and have not looked back. In my 29 year fire service career I have experienced a lot of highs and lows but this group defines family and helping others when needed.

Thank you

Dave and Jennifer Gustafson

RKMN4

## Region 6

(Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah)



### WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REGIONAL REPORTER?

Following the resignation of Region 6's Reporter in December we are looking to recruit a new Regional Reporter for Regions 6

If you are interested and would like more information about what is involved please contact me at:

[editor@redknightsmc.com](mailto:editor@redknightsmc.com)

# Region 7

(European Chapters)

Our European family has continued to grow over the past year with more chapters being chartered and more MAL joining. Europe now has 67 chapters and more than 1,300 members in 18 countries with Germany leading the way with more than 30 Chapters.

Europe has seen a few changes on the organisational side of things with a new Regional Director in Tom Van Der Kley to oversee the onward development of Europe's Red Knights, Tom takes over from Pierre Halleux, the European Grand Tour Coordinator, Tom `Sparks` Hoedjes has stepped down from the role so we have Rolf `Imperial` Muehleemann taking over from him to become European Grand Tour Coordinator.



In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic Europe held their annual European Conference (EuCon) in September 2021, Belgium 2 being the hosts for the second time, having hosted the event in 2014, and as usual Belgium 2 put on a great EuCon starting with an Air Guitar competition on the Friday night which proved very popular and very entertaining.

The Saturday evening formalities were honored by the

attendance of the USA Ambassador and some US Firefighters to mark and show respect to the 9/11 Anniversary.

EuCon 2022 will again be in September and this year's event will be held in Arnhem with its hosts being Netherlands 1. This event was sold out within 20 hours of registration going live leaving many European members disappointed at not being able to successfully register and at the possibility of not being able to attend what is the main European meeting of the year. However, Netherlands 1 worked hard for a couple of days and successfully secured a further 100 places which again sold out quickly. As always there will be a packed programme to keep those attending occupied over the weekend.



European Association's `Iron Butt` programme was again well subscribed in 2021, the aim of the `Iron Butt` is to encourage Knights to get out on their motorcycles and to visit other Red Knights.

Although this started off as a program for European Red Knights it was later opened up to Red Knights worldwide.



The 2021 winner for the most kilometres ridden in the year was our International Treasurer, Scott Ryan with his total distance of 30,000 kilometres, Alan Grayson from England 2 again featured in the top three coming second with a distance of 24,026 kilometres



To achieve the award riders must ride at least 10,000 kilometres in the year. Details about the award and how to enter can be found on the European Association's website.

[www.redknightsmc.eu](http://www.redknightsmc.eu)

The redesign of the Red Knights European Association website is coming along nicely, but "we still have much to customize" said the European Association Secretary, Stefan Streif. Take a look and watch it develop over the coming months: [www.redknightsmc.eu](http://www.redknightsmc.eu)

It is hoped that more meetings will be able to take place this year including the UK MAL Chris 'the Dark Lord' Newiss's UK/Ireland meeting in Blackpool in April, having tried for the last two years but had to postpone the event because of Covid restrictions, fingers crossed it will be third time lucky.

## Journey into the unknown

**Mission report by Tom van der Kley, Fire and Rescue Station Echternach**

**15.07.2021**

In the news it is said that there could be increased rain today, so a warning for heavy rain is issued on the radio. Well, I have advanced training, so it is not particularly relevant for me. Since the morning it rains and you can see that it is getting heavier. Lunch break. We are having lunch with the whole watch department when the warning level is raised from orange to red. It's a good thing that I'm on vacation from tomorrow, I think to myself.

At 15:00 my alarm rings. Storm alarm. This alarm is only issued when there are several calls for the station. Well, it won't be so bad, I think to myself. 15:45 Training is over and I get straight into my car and drive towards our fire station. When I arrive I ask where I can help and I am told to fill sandbags so I drive with 2 colleagues with one of our trucks to a neighbouring village to fill sandbags. The first news come in that it looks bad. Half of our old town is completely under water, meters high. We start pumping everything out. Around 22:00 I leave the station, because I have to be back at the station at 07:00 in the morning.

**16.07.2021; 05:15 the alarm clock rings**

I get into my uniform and drive to work still half asleep. Hopefully, all my colleagues are well and have survived the night of some measures. Arrived at work, I immediately notice that almost all parking spaces are occupied. Hmm funny I think to myself. I immediately see why. The command squadron has gone on duty and their task is now to coordinate the supply of personnel, and the technical operations that have to do with the flood. I see the first photos and am shocked. The water is meters high everywhere and people

are trapped in upper floors of their houses. Thank God there are no injured or even dead. Since the situation is getting worse and more reports are coming in from abroad, it is becoming clear that this operation will continue for several days, I report to my superior and cancel my vacation (actually, I wanted to ride my motorcycle to Austria to visit a chapter, which had their 5-year celebration).

My superior then asks me if I can come the next day in the leadership squadron to represent the control centre.

### **17.07.2021; 06:35 Command and control squadron flood operation**

During the night the situation has worsened. It is being considered to abandon 2 cities because we are unable to cope with the volume of water as levels rise faster than our pumps can pump it out. Nevertheless, there is positive news, except for a few lightly injured, there are no personal injuries. That's a miracle, I think to myself, when I see the photos from the areas of operation where complete districts are under water, the people had to be evacuated by boats, those who could not or would not be evacuated, are already supplied by the boats with food and water and if necessary with medicines. Then Belgium request assistance from our divers. Up to this point I was of the opinion that it has already hit us hard, but the pictures we see are even more frightening and there is even reports people losing their lives. Some of our divers are ordered to Belgium to give assistance, and I am very glad not have to be there.

### **14:00**

The face of our chief of operations becomes even more serious as he informs us that our neighbouring country, Germany has just made an official request to have 20 ambulances sent to Germany.

There is talk of a huge area under water, evacuations, catastrophic conditions like in war, and hundreds missing and dead. The fire departments as well as rescue services would be completely overloaded in the areas affected and worse still partially no longer available, because they have simply been washed away.

Immediately it is decided that we will send every emergency resource that we can spare and after 2 hours of calling around and planning we have 10 ambulances together to send to the area of operations. Although I should have the next 3 days off I report for duty and at 16:00 I receive instructions that I should staff the ambulances from the Echternach fire and rescue station with a colleague and we make our way to the meeting place. I quickly told my girlfriend and family, packed some uniforms and hygiene products, etc.

Arrived at the station, the colleagues have already made the ambulances ready so that we only need to stow our protective equipment and can drive off.

Slowly a queasy feeling creeps over us. What will come to us, what kind of missions will we have, what kind of tasks? Arrived at the meeting point at the border we look around. We are the first. 18:00 is the meeting time. It is 17:40 and I remember that I have not eaten since yesterday evening so go to a gas station for a snack. Back at the ambulances, the rest of the ambulances arrive one by one and the mood is good, but you can clearly feel the tension. Finally, with a delay of one and a half hours the group sets off in the direction of the assembly point in the area of operation. The closer we get to the area the more uncomfortable we feel.

### **21:15**

When we arrive at the assembly point, there are already a large number of vehicles there from all rescue service organizations that one knows. I am already dog-tired and I could lie down and our leader of operations tells us that we should wait as he drives to the command centre and announces us. Not even 10 minutes later our leader returns and gives us the order to load all our luggage into an ambulance and ready ourselves for immediate action to evacuate a hospital in the middle of the flood area. Well, it doesn't look that bad here I think to myself, just a little dust in the air and on the streets, that's it. A few streets further on, I am taught better as we turn the corner and there is nothing that could have prepared us for this, it looks like a disaster movie, only a hundred times worse. There is no electricity and it is pitch black and in the vehicle's headlights we see cars and uprooted trees lying around. Everywhere furnishings are lying around,

the streets are muddy and full of dirt and cars are hanging in the trees. It looks like a post-apocalypse movie. The headlights cast eerie shadows as dirt hangs in the few trees that are still standing.

We drive over a bridge that is half destroyed, turn at a police car that is standing at the corner with its blue lights on. I catch a brief eye contact with the police officer and immediately see that he is exhausted and has a blank stare. I don't want to know what this officer has been through in the last few hours. We arrived at the hospital which is illuminated by a few spotlights and emergency lamps. Ambulances, fire department and THW (Federal Agency for Technical Relief) are on site. There is light inside the hospital. The people from THW have set up an emergency generator to keep at least the essential things running. We transfer the first 2 patients about 40 km away to a geriatric ward. Back at the hospital, we transfer the next patient to a hospital in Bonn. Then we are told that we should drive to the Nürburgring, where the staging area has been established. After a 90-minute drive, we arrive at our staging area. It is now 04:00 in the morning and we get something to eat. A kitchen crew has fried hamburgers, we devour them and talk briefly with our leader. He thinks we could get some sleep and our beds are lined up in the pit lanes. Even though some hundred personnel sleep together it does not disturb me because after over 24 hours without rest I am totally exhausted and immediately fall asleep. It is +- 04:45.

### **18.07.2021; 06:00**

Our leader of operations wakes us up after one hour of sleep. Quickly we have breakfast and immediately we are ready for action. After a short but very tasty breakfast we get the mission order: All our ambulances drive together to a sports hall, where we evacuate patients and transfer them to a nursing home about 2 hours drive away. Arriving at the sports hall, we see a horrible picture, it is full of people in dirty clothes, some without shoes, in nightgowns or half naked. In front of the door, people are eagerly sorting clothes that people from the surrounding area have donated. People who faced us are crying with gratitude.

People who asked us where we came from and wondered why we came from Luxembourg just to help them knowing that we ourselves have floods. I realize that my voice is shaking as I explain to them that what we have in Luxembourg is not even remotely as bad as what we have here, and that we are happy to help. These people were so incredibly grateful, as I have never seen it before in my life. The transfer to the nursing home goes smoothly, once there, we are greeted very warmly by the nursing staff and after we have taken the patients to their rooms, the staff gives us coffee and a quiet corner where we can rest for a while. Slowly I start to process the first impressions. In the short time I have already seen a lot and experienced many emotions. I had no idea that what we have seen and experienced so far is nothing compared to what awaits us in the next few hours.

### **14:00**

We arrived back at our staging area and after a meal a few people of our team lie down and try to get some sleep. After 2 hours we are woken up again to get ready for another mission. The vehicles are checked and refuelled and off we go again. We are supposed to drive to a village that seems to be heavily affected by the floods and take over the medical care of the population together with the fire department.

We arrive at our place of action, however, it turns out that something cannot be right here. The operation site is located in an elevated village where not a single damage can be seen. Together with the fire department, we try to contact the operations centre and after almost 2.5 hours we reach them and it turns out that we have landed in the wrong village due to a spelling mistake on our alarm dispatch. After obtaining the correct address it turns out that our location is about 50 km away so we set off to get there as quickly as possible. The closer we get to our destination, the more devastated the landscape is. Trees that have been uprooted, roads that are completely gone due to erosion, meadows that look as if it were a bog, garbage lying around everywhere and debris. Shortly before we reach our destination the bridge that we should pass is so badly damaged and we are unable to proceed and the convoy turns around to look for another way, after another 2 hours we have reached our standby room. There is a hustle and bustle of police, firefighters and civilians and our leader reports to the section commander and receives our orders. We are to stand-by

for now so that we can immediately take over the operation if a medical or technical emergency occurs in one of the surrounding villages. Close by is a hotel or a guesthouse where we are told that we can get food if we want.

When we go in the owner greets us and immediately tells us that we should first get some food. He had already catered for the rescue forces continuously for 2 days and apologized for the fact that it could give unfortunately "only" Spaghetti Bolognese. After we explained to the man that we would be very happy even about a sandwich, he realized that we were very happy about his commitment, and he began to smile. I think it was the best spaghetti I have eaten in my life so far. After a quick but damn tasty meal, everyone grabbed 2 bottles of water and headed out to explore our deployment area so that if we needed to deploy, we could find our way around.

**19:30**

We drive down to the first village and I think to myself that there is nothing going on and there is nothing for us to do here. We turn the corner and in front of us is a picture of devastation. Houses that have partially collapsed. Mud-covered streets, everything full of debris and garbage, people who are completely filthy with mud. One sees the bewilderment and the shock of the people.



People are just functioning like robots as they try to clean up, to save things that are still any good. A little away from us we see a bridge that is completely destroyed, it is surrounded by debris and trees hang across the bridge. We park our vehicles to look for the people, I see a few people sitting in front of a ruin, which was probably once a hotel or restaurant or pub. I introduce myself briefly to the people and ask how they are doing. Contrary to my expectations they all say that they are well and none is hurt. When I asked them if they needed anything, they replied that they lacked medicines for the older residents because the village pharmacy was completely destroyed. Mainly there is a lack of insulin for an elderly lady with diabetes and I promise the lady to try to organize something. One of the women stands up and offers to show me around. The woman seems to have noticed that I am quite shocked by the pictures that are offered to me. She explains to me that they had already lived in the village for many years had already witnessed floods in the past but that no one was prepared for what happened here and that the speed with which the water rose was indescribable. After a few minutes, the water was over 7 meters high and has carried away everything that stood in the way. Trees, houses, cars and people. I talk a little with the woman and say goodbye to her with the words: we are here. If you need anything, do not hesitate to inform us.

I continue to the centre of the village, where there is another bridge that is also badly damaged and only passable for pedestrians. A resident warns me and tells me that if I want to cross the bridge I should keep left, because on the right the bridge has no railing and threatens to collapse. I decide better not to go over the bridge but it clear to see how the water has raged.

We again drive to our staging area which has been changed in the meantime. The staging area is a little closer to the villages and is in a parking lot of a large boarding house. On this parking lot are some fire-brigade vehicles together with our contingent. The officer in charge of the operation tells us that we are very lucky to be allowed to spend the night in this boarding house. However, the problem arises that all our sleeping things as well as clothes are still at the Nürburgring and we have therefore no spare clothes or hygiene things with us but after some telephoning around we arrange the items we want to be brought to us. After 2 hours a vehicle arrives with our things and the vehicle is emptied, only my own things were



forgotten. Totally overtired we fall into bed around 23:00. But I did not sleep well and since we want to meet again at 08:00 the following morning, I set my alarm for 07:30.

It was a very short night and I was very glad that I always have earplugs in my emergency bag because my room neighbour was snoring away the whole forest.

### **19.07.2021; 07:30**

I'm in the shower when my room-mate and vehicle-mate urge me to hurry, because we have to leave immediately. We are moved to an area where no rescue forces are yet.

With the old clothes, but at least freshly showered, we meet in the parking lot with the fire department and set off in convoy to reach our next staging area. Shortly before we reached it we discover that there was no way through with most of the vehicles. We had some off-road trucks with us as well as a jeep so we loaded the material from our vehicle onto it and it travelled about one and a half hours over forest roads to the village. Arriving in the village, a picture of devastation awaited us. The village was virtually torn into 2 parts, houses were either completely torn apart, completely gone or very badly damaged.

The experiences, conversations as well as pictures we made and saw on that day are so difficult to describe and to process that I will not even try to describe it. In my now over 20 years of firefighting and rescue service, I have never experienced anything that was nearly as bad and caused me so many sleepless nights.

### **Journey home**

We handed over our vehicles to the following units and tried to prepare them for what awaited them.

It was pretty quiet in the bus at first, but little by little we realized that we were on our way home and were also safe.

Has this mission changed me? I don't know.

Do I see life with different eyes now? Yes. I try now even more than before to enjoy life to the fullest, and to enjoy the beautiful moments more consciously.

In memory of all the victims of the flood disaster,

In memory of all the firefighters/rescue workers who lost their lives in this operation,

In memory of all those emergency personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

My deepest condolences to all families who lost a family member, acquaintance or friend.

To all the victims of the flood disaster: I and we will never forget you and those days and you will forever be in our thoughts.

**Tom van der Kley, Region 7 Director, Germany XXXI**

## GERMANY 12 PRESENT A CHEQUE FOR €444.44

Donation to the Pestalozzi Foundation residential group in Celle

On Sunday, October 10., the motorcycle club Red Knights Germany XII Südheide was able to make a donation of 444,44 euros to the residential group of the Pestalozzi Foundation Celle.

The handover took place in the presence of the carers and children and 5 members of the Red Knights Germany XII. The members of the residential group then thanked the Red Knights for the donation with coffee and cake. Our president Christian Friedrich handed over the check to Sabine Drechsler



## Red Knights MC Germany XIV Memorial Run



"We will never forget", a phrase also taken to heart in Germany. The Red Knights MC Germany XIV from Berlin organized a memorial run on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, commemorating the 343 firefighters, 80 police officers, and the approximately 2600 civilians who died during the tragic event.

We met at the former parade ground of the American armed forces, at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Square, not far from the former "McNair Barracks". Also present were other Red Knights MC chapters, namely Germany II, IV, IX and XII as well as Danmark I. Further companions alongside the 100 bikers of our corso were the Medical Knights, the Yellow Knights, the Streetbunny Crew Berlin, the Facebook group "Friends For Harley



Davidson" as well as the "European Police Car Unit", which were present with 2 American Firetrucks and some police vehicles.

One Firetruck was actually on duty in New York on September 11th, 2001 and was taken out of service after that day. It's current owner is an honorary firefighter at the New York Fire Station.



At 1:00 pm, the motorcade started its journey and drove across Berlin while escorted by Berlin police. Since this was a memorial run, the firetrucks and police vehicles drove along with lights only, and the sirens remained silent at first. However, as we reached the rally point in Berlin-Mitte, we announced our coming with the sirens to make the Berlin population aware of us.

In front of the Neptune Fountain and the "Red City Hall", the seat of the Mayor of Berlin, our Vice President Hoeffli gave a moving speech. He recalled September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and described what he experienced that day. He also recalled the attack in Berlin when a truck crashed into people at the Christmas market on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



Punctually at 2:46 pm (8:46 am New York time), when the first plane crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, we observed a minute of silence to tribute the victims. Our salute was succeeded by two bagpipers who traditionally played "Amazing Grace".



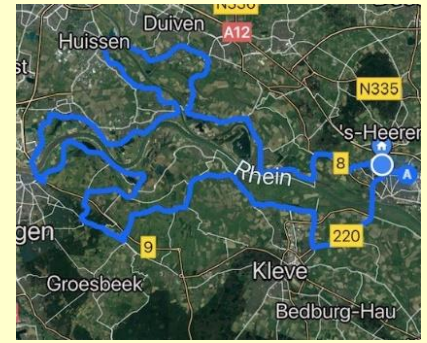
Afterwards, the motorcade started moving again and we drove the second part of our memorial run through Berlin. When we reached our destination, the Berlin Olympic Stadium, the sirens wailed again as a final salute. We lingered for a while at the Olympic Stadium reviewed the day and the memorial run and once again commemorated the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Red Knights MC Germany XIV thanks all helpers, chapters and other participants who contributed to the success of this memorial run.

# Red Knights MC Germany 6/ 30 - Deichtour 2021



On August 7, 2021, the two Emmerich members of Chapter Germany VI, supported by the bikers of the Emmerich am Rhein fire brigade, carried out the Charity-Run "Deichtour".



Supported by Chapter Germany VI, the Red Knights, accompanied by friendly MC and free bikers, drove a 130 km long route over the dikes of the Lower Rhine.

During the tour, a break was taken, which offered time to make new contacts and deepen existing friendships.



Through the entry fees and the proceeds of the subsequent barbeque, a profit of € 900 could be achieved, which could be donated to the organization FeuerKrebs (FireCancer) <https://feuerkrebs.de> in October during the exhibition A+A in Düsseldorf. From the ranks of the bikers of the Emmerich fire brigade, so many were enthusiastic about the Red Knights MC that enough new members were found to charter a new chapter here.



In November 2021, Chapter Germany 30 was therefore chartered in Emmerich am Rhein.

RKMC Germany 30 is pleased to welcome many of you to the Deichtour 2022, the date will be announced on social media.



Loyal to our Duty, Martin, President RKMC Germany 30

# German 3 Member Til Moritz Gralla features in German National Biker Magazine

Til Moritz Gralla lost a leg in an accident that was not his fault and is paralysed on his left arm. He was interviewed by the magazine "Tourenfahrer".



Seit einem Motorradunfall im Jahr 2016 fehlt Til-Moritz der linke Unterschenkel, zudem ist sein linker Arm gelähmt.

## Til-Moritz Gralla

«Für mich war es von Anfang an klar, dass ich wieder Motorrad fahren will, dieses Gefühl der Freiheit habe ich bis zu dem Zeitpunkt nur im Motorradsattel erlebt. Meine Familie war nicht sehr erfreut, dass ich nach so einer Nahtod-Erfahrung wieder aufsteigen will, meine Freunde hingegen haben sich nur auf den Tag gefreut, an dem wir wieder gemeinsam auf Tour gehen können. Mein ganzes Umfeld hat mir Mut gemacht und mich unterstützt, was mir extrem geholfen hat und wofür ich noch immer sehr dankbar bin. Jeder Mensch hat Ziele, die er erreichen möchte. Diese Ziele darf man nie aus den Augen verlieren, egal, wie weit sie noch entfernt scheinen, egal, welches Schicksal man erlebt hat und egal, welches Handicap man hat. Es gibt immer eine Lösung, nur manchmal funktioniert es anders, als man es vielleicht kennt. Geht nicht, gibt's nicht!»

*The original magazine article*

“For me it was clear from the beginning that I wanted to ride a motorcycle again, I had only experienced this feeling of freedom in the motorcycle saddle until then. My family wasn't very happy that I wanted to get back on track after such a near-death experience, but my friends were just looking forward to the day when we could go on tour together again. My whole environment gave me courage and support, which helped me tremendously and for which I am still very grateful. Everyone has goals that they want to achieve. You must never lose sight of these goals, no matter how far away they seem, no matter what fate you have experienced and no matter what handicap you have. There is always a solution, only sometimes it works differently than you might know it. There's no such thing as impossible!”

“Für mich war es von Anfang an klar, dass ich wieder Motorrad fahren will, dieses Gefühl der Freiheit habe ich bis zu dem Zeitpunkt nur im Motorradsattel erlebt. Meine Familie war nicht sehr erfreut, dass ich nach so einer Nahtod-Erfahrung wieder aufsteigen will, meine Freunde hingegen haben sich nur auf den Tag gefreut, an dem wir wieder gemeinsam auf Tour gehen können. Mein ganzes Umfeld hat mir Mut gemacht und mich unterstützt, was mir extrem geholfen hat und wofür ich noch immer sehr dankbar bin. Jeder Mensch hat Ziele, die er erreichen möchte. Diese Ziele darf man nie aus den Augen verlieren, egal, wie weit sie noch entfernt scheinen, egal, welches Schicksal man erlebt hat und egal, welches Handicap man hat. Es gibt immer eine Lösung, nur manchmal funktioniert es anders, als man es vielleicht kennt. Geht nicht, gibt's nicht!”



**Editor's Note: The original article was submitted in German so I have published in German and English**

# Germany III donates to Startklar

On Saturday, 31.07.2021, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Germany III was able to hand over a donation of 250 € to the socio-medical aftercare service "Startklar".

The motorcycle club, which has been based in Giessen for eleven years now, recruits its members from the ranks of the fire brigades, regardless of whether it is a professional, factory or volunteer fire brigade. Every year, the motorcycle-riding rescuers donate to a non-profit institution from the region.

This year's donation could be handed over to the socio-medical aftercare service "Startklar". Startklar cares for parents and premature babies in the district of Giessen. With their work, the employees of Startklar relieve the parents noticeably and offer help in the sometimes quite difficult initial time at home after the hospital stay.

Jochen Sauer (to his left his wife Regina Wende), a member of the Red Knights, had to experience last year that the offspring was born 15 weeks too early and with only 350g. The family received a lot of support from Startklar and was overwhelmed by the offer. Therefore, he briefly submitted the proposal to the board to hand over this year's donation to Startklar. He did not hesitate for long and agreed, so that a donation of 250 € could be handed over.

The check donation was carried out by President Steffen Schmidt (right) and Vice-President Tim Pfadenhauer (left). On the far right Mrs. Andrea Hönig employee of Startklar, on the left in the coat in the second row Prof. Dr. Ehrhardt Head of the Neonatological Station of the UKGM Giessen.



# Germany III spendet an Startklar

Am Samstag den 31.07.2021 konnte der Red Knights Motorcycle Club Germany III an den sozialmedizinischen Nachsorgedienst „Startklar“ eine Spende in Höhe von 250 € überreichen.

Der Motorradclub, welcher in Gießen seit nunmehr elf Jahren ansässig ist, rekrutiert seine Mitglieder aus Reihen der Feuerwehren, dabei ist es egal ob Berufs-, Werk- oder Freiwillige Feuerwehr. Jedes Jahr spenden die Motorrad fahrenden Retter an eine gemeinnützige Einrichtung aus der Region.

Die diesjährige Spende konnte an den sozialmedizinischen Nachsorgedienst „Startklar“ übergeben werden. Startklar betreut Eltern und Frühgeborene im Landkreis Gießen. Mit ihrer Arbeit entlasten die Mitarbeiter von Startklar die Eltern merklich und bieten Hilfe in der zum Teil doch recht schwierigen Anfangszeit zu Hause im Anschluss an den Klinikaufenthalt an.

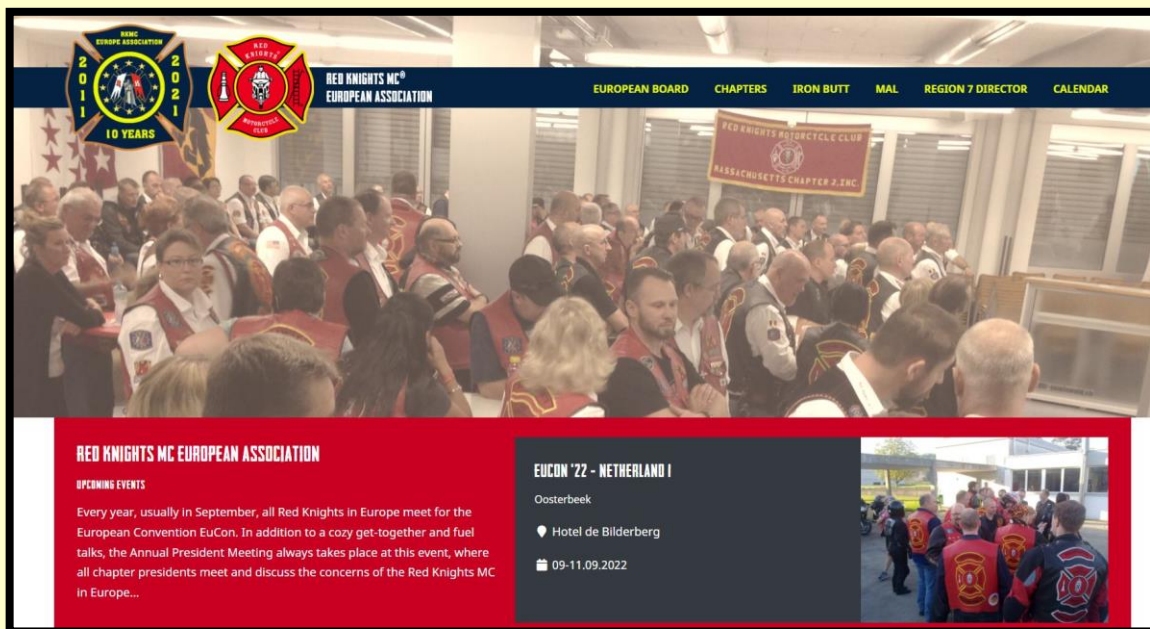
Jochen Sauer (links neben ihm seine Frau Regina Wende), ein Mitglied der Red Knights, hatte letztes Jahr die Erfahrung machen müssen, dass der Nachwuchs 15 Wochen zu früh und mit nur 350g auf die Welt gekommen ist. Die Familie hat sehr viel Unterstützung von Startklar erfahren und war von dem Angebot überwältigt. Daher reichte er kurzum den Vorschlag beim Vorstand ein, die diesjährige Spende an Startklar zu übergeben. Dieser zögerte nicht lange und willigte ein, sodass eine Spende von 250 € übergeben werden konnte.

Den Check halten der President Steffen Schmidt (rechts) und der Vice-President Tim Pfadenhauer (links). Ganz Rechts außen Frau Andrea Hönig Mitarbeiterin von Startklar, Links im Kittel in zweiter Reihe Herr Prof. Dr. Ehrhardt Leiter der Neonatologischen Station des UKGM Gießen.



**Editor's Note:** *The original article was submitted in German so I have published in German and English*

## New homepage of the Europe Association



For more than two years now we have been working on modernizing the homepage of the Europe Association and making it more user-friendly. Now, shortly before the turn of the year 2021 / 2022 our efforts have been fruitful, and we have launched a completely redesigned homepage. When you visit <https://redknightsmc.eu>, the home page first explains who we are, how you can become a member of the Red Knights, and what the requirements are. This page is primarily intended to introduce people who don't know us to the Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club®. However, if you now go to the chapter page, you will also find interesting information about each chapter.

Cont;

The hierarchical structure shows on the right side the responsible officer, who is in charge of the respective area or chapter. Below that you will find their contact details and, if available, a link to the relevant homepage. The left side of the individual chapters can be designed by each chapter individually and in its national language. Here it is planned that each chapter president receives a corresponding access with write rights and the board can then activate the pages. Thus, the chapters have the opportunity to draw attention to themselves or they can place notes on current events.

Another highlight can be found in the footer of the page. Under "Nice to know", important information on certain topics such as founding a chapter, organizing a European Rally or other resources will be published step by step. Already now the lyrics of Fireman Prayer, the official song of the Red Knights can be found there, and it is even possible to listen to it in the original.

However, such a page only lives if it is up-to-date and also maintained. Therefore, all chapters are urged to study the homepage from time to time and, if necessary, send requests for changes to the mail address [homepage@redknightsmc.eu](mailto:homepage@redknightsmc.eu). The webmaster Marcus Honkisz and I will update it immediately.

## Spoken Language

In the aftermath of the last European Annual Presidents Meeting, there were several feedbacks and complaints, all of which concerned the prevailing language problems. But let's first take a step back and look at what exactly happened:

It has crept in more and more over the last years that the participants of the European Annual President Meeting were not proficient enough in English to follow the meeting. This led to the fact that during discussions everything had to be translated again and again into different languages. As a result, the meeting became more and more protracted each year. Finally, the presidents of various chapters approached the members of the Board and told us that they would leave the meeting if it were to run the same way again in 2022.

The Board of the Europe Association takes these comments very seriously and has investigated the matter in detail. The basic problem is, of course, first of all, the linguistic diversity of Europe. Only a handful of chapters have English as their native language. In addition, about ten to twelve other languages are spoken by Red Knights in Europe, with about sixty percent (60%) of all chapters claiming German as their native language in some form. Due to the very different cultural development of Europe in the last forty to sixty years, English is also not taught everywhere in school as the first foreign language. In addition, there is also a great variety of different ethnic groups and cultures in Europe, which also have completely different temperaments.





The Board has weighed all these realities against each other and is now presenting a solution that will hopefully satisfy all chapters in Europe. It was decided that first, together with the invitation to the next European Annual President Meeting, a detailed handout with all the topics to be negotiated will be written. This will be sent to the Country Representatives or, where these are not available, to the Chapter President of the respective country, with the demand of translating it into his national language and to distribute it to the Chapters. The Annual President Meeting itself will be conducted in English, as this is the official language of the Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club®. However, to prevent chapters who cannot follow the proceedings from not participating in the voting or even rejecting motions simply because they do not understand them, the proceedings will be interrupted for five minutes before voting and at regular intervals so that the individual language groups can have a summary of what has been said translated by a participant who knows the language.

On behalf of the Europe Association

Stefan "Sergeant" Streif

Secretary

# Region 8

(Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific)

## AUSTRALIA 6 HOST THE KEITH HAMILTON TOY RUN

Red Knights Australia 6 hosted the Keith Hamilton Toy Run December 11th 2021. Raising a estimate of cash donations, food donations and the toys themselves, the run raised almost 13 grand. The day was an awesome day, good turnout in bikes.

The ride began at 9am made it was to mafia before returning to Sale Clock tower for the handover of money and toys. The 24th year of the event was as strong as ever, and its also provides an opportunity to the hard work and dedication of Keith Hamilton and late Ian Kennedy, who began the ride in the mid-1990s.



Keep an eye out this year for the 25th Keith Hamilton toy run in December 2022. Awesome day out or a weekend away. Some history on Keith Hamilton toy run. How it started.

Keith Hamilton began the fundraising event 24 years ago, which was taken over by well-known local identity Ian Kennedy, who ran it for 19 years until he died tragically in a car accident.

The Red Knights stepped up to continue Mr Hamilton and Mr Kennedy's legacy.

# THE KEITH HAMILTON TOY RUN HOSTED BY AUSTRALIA 6



# AUSTRALIA 6 INVITE YOU TO “COME AND ZOOM WITH US”

Red knights Australia 6 hosts a region8 Zoom meeting every Friday. All welcome. Check out Red Knights Region 8 page or Red Knights Australia 6 for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/redknightsregion8/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123883117724721/?ref=share>

## Memorial Ride for Sel and Dougie

The weekend of January 15th 2022 marked the second memorial ride for NZ7 member Sel Lotam and NZ7 / NZ6 Life member Doug Wright, who tragically left us within two days of each other.



*Memorial ride NZ6 & NZ7*

Chapter Members travelled from around the country to gather in the small West Coast township of Reefton in the South Island, to celebrate these two big character's lives.

It was a great weekend with awesome weather and awesome people, with a big thank you to the Ross Fire Brigade for an awesome lunch and a warm welcome to the Red Knights family on our arrival.

Words by NZ7 Road Captain Mike Jackson



*Dougie & Sel*



*Doug Wright Memorial*



*Red Knights on the Memorial Ride*

# New Zealand 3, 5 and 9 Santa Charity Ride

On December 11th NZ3, NZ5 and NZ9 took part in the 2nd annual K-55 Santa Charity Run, organised by NZ9 Chapter President Rossco Arthur.

International research has found Firefighters have double the risk of developing testicular cancer compared to the rest of the population, and an increased risk to a number of other cancers due to our exposure to cancer-causing toxins (carcinogens).

Experts say it's the profession's biggest killer and unfortunately New Zealand's Government does not automatically cover firefighters for these cancers.

In New Zealand K-55 is a radio code Firefighters use when carrying out a Special Service.

This is a way to return the Special Service to Firefighters, with all funds raised through this ride available to assist in supporting Firefighters with fire related cancers and PTSD.



So, on a bright, sunny morning Chapters from NZ9 in Napier, NZ3 in the Waikato and NZ5 in Wellington departed their respective regions, to all meet up at the final destination of Taupo Fire Station in the central North Island.

All riders and bikes were decorated in some form, with either Santa suits or decorations, making for lots of smiles and pointing from vehicles and pedestrians along the route.

This is an event that NZ9 President Rossco is very passionate about and we

all look forward to this charity run growing in numbers every year!



# QUIZ PAGE ANSWERS

**40 YEAR PATCH COMPETITION WINNER –  
CHAD RABIDEAU NY 50**



**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**



## **MOTORCYCLE PICTURE QUIZ ANSWERS**



**A - BMW GS1200 A**



**B - HD Low Rider S**



**C - HD Sport Glide**



**D - BMW K1600B**



**E - Honda GL 1800 Goldwing  
Tour**



**F - Triumph Rocket 3R**



**G - HD Pan-America 1250**



**H - HD Road King**



**I - HD Street Bob**



**J - HD Ultra Limited**



**K - Honda GL1800 Goldwing**



**L - HD Road Glide Limited**

## **Words from our International Chaplain Dennis Hewett:**

We wrapped up 2021 Honors Recipients with the funeral of MA-3 Ann Blandin this past Sunday (1-16-22), who passed away on December 31, 2021. She joined the following members who passed away in the month of December 2021:

12/05 Howard Drake NY-16

12/13 Steve Wright NY-03

12/15 James Webber NY-36

12/19 David Yeager NY-36

12/28 Merlon Sylvester Jr. ME-03

12/28 Graham Wybar AU-02

12/31 Ann Blandin MA-03

Sympathy cards were sent to each of the families and Red Knights Honors have been bestowed for each of those passing members. As we celebrated the "good" news from Jack of our increased membership to over ten thousand members worldwide, let us not forget those who have left our presence, and now live on through our thoughtful love and jubilant memories. Please have caring thoughts for the fifty seven individuals who passed away during the year 2021, which is a 39% increase over the previous year of 2020, and a 25% increase over the rolling three year average. During the past three years (2019-2021) we have lost one hundred thirty seven members, which constitutes almost a quarter (22.6%) of the total 605 recorded deaths on the Heaven One roster, which began in 1985 or thirty six years ago. For a rolling thirty six year average, 16 monthly deaths are recorded, thus putting 2021 at a 256% increase in monthly passing rate. The question that may occur is WHY? It would be easy to say that 2020 and 2021 increases were Covid-19 deaths, and indeed it would be an easy answer; but not necessarily correct. Indeed Covid-19 and its variants held some accountability, along with illness and disease accompanied with COVID; also along with, car and motorcycle accidents, health issues of existing and underlying conditions, workplace accidents, line of duty deaths, cancer, heart attacks and strokes. The real cause is something we cannot stop and have a tendency to deny that it even exists in our business, social, and most often, our personal lives. The answer to WHY the increases... simply age. Individually, and collectively we continue to age, and there are more of us over age sixty five plus (perhaps even seventy) than ever before, therefore we will continue to see increases in both average and total deaths per measured time periods. Since I began as Chaplain in 2017, our average age at time of death has jumped 36.9%, and with each passing year I believe it will continue to do so. Not gloom and doom, nor disparaging news, just a reality that we must face each time a new death notification is posted. So, in closing, I humbly ask that we remember those affected chapters, those individual families, those who have stood before the grieving families and passed to them a gift of Red Knight Honors ensuring that their loved one is remembered, and in doing so, we as Red Knights took part in making sure that those who died will live forever within our memories. Never to be forgotten...truly good news for each of us.

**Sincerely, Dennis Hewett Chaplain**



***Below are photographs of just some of our departed Brothers and Sisters,  
KEEP THEM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS***

